

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2012  
MONTAUK COUNTY PARK  
MONTAUK, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Islip
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist
Tony Trotta	Parks Superintendent

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Jill Lewis	Deputy Town Supervisor, Riverhead
Allison Manfra McGovern	Doctoral Student/Archeology, CUNY
Annemarie Prudenti	Deputy Town Attorney, Riverhead

**PUBLIC PORTION**

JoAnn and William Sommer voiced interest in various different possibilities for use of the property at Sears Bellows stables in Hampton Bays. Colleen Hofmeister stated that there have already been two RFPs that have been unsuccessful for this site. Commissioner Dawson stated that the county's main concern is that proposals focus on viable recreational ideas that are appropriate for the site, whether it be a horse stable, a nature center, nature trails or a museum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2012**

Page 2 - last sentence in first paragraph changed to read: Nick stated that there are certain criteria that were required and already approved, and as long as they haven't been substantially modified, we should still be in compliance with CEQ.

**A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Board Member, Terrence Pearsall. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & REAL ESTATE**

Lauretta Fischer distributed a map and description of the conceptual plan for the EMB Enterprises parcel that was prepared by the Town of Riverhead. The property size is 4.189 acres and is located in the hamlet of Baiting Hollow. The partnership agreement is that the county will purchase the property and the Town of Riverhead will be responsible for improvement and maintenance of the property. The land is situated on Sound Avenue, at the corner of Park Road and Sound Avenue and is a gateway to the subdivision known as Reeves Park which is located north of this property. On the site is a memorial honoring a local individual who passed away on September 11, 2001. The memorial is located just north of the corner on Park Road and will be moved to a more interior site on the property. Five parking spaces are planned off Park Road, including one handicapped space and an asphalt path leading to the memorial. A walking trail will be created and take up a significant amount of the property. Nick Gibbons stated that at the CEQ meeting, the Parks Department asked for off-street parking so that it would be more easily recognizable to the public that the property is a county park. He reiterated that the asphalt walkway will lead only to the memorial and the balance will be simply trails. The flagpole for the memorial has already been moved to the interior of the park. Trustee McKay inquired what the vegetation of the property is and Nick replied that it is forested land. Trustee Sickles inquired as to how much of the four acres have been proposed to be cleared and developed. Lauretta stated that only the trails and parking area would be cleared which has been determined to be .125 acre.

Chairman Borden invited Deputy Town Supervisor of Riverhead Jill Lewis and Deputy Town Attorney Annemarie Prudenti to comment on the acquisition since the county will be partnering with the Town of Riverhead. Deputy Town Attorney Annemarie Prudenti stated that in 1975, Sound Avenue was dedicated as an historic corridor. She added that the proposed park is the entrance to what is referred to as Reeves Park and she believes it will be used by many of the local residents. Residents have been very vocal in their support and advocacy for the preservation of this parcel and they would very much like to participate in the project.

**A motion to adopt the plan for the County to purchase the parcel and the Town of Riverhead to maintain and improve it was made by Trustee Cardillo and seconded by Trustee Gooding. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson asked Colleen Hofmeister to give an update on all current RFPs. She reported that the RFP for the restaurant facility at Timber Point went out and we received one proposal from Lessings, which has been the concession there for the past twenty years. Both Trustee Hopkins and Board Member Debra Kolyer served on the evaluation committee and everyone was very pleased with the Lessings proposal. Lessings has a plan for a large addition to the building which is in its very preliminary stages and they have indicated that they are willing to contribute in excess of \$1 million to the facility for the first ten years of the license agreement, in addition to their normal license fees and percentage of gross. Financially, it's a very good contract for the Parks Department and we are currently in the process of negotiating all of the fine points with Lessings.

The RFP for West Sayville went out and we received one proposal which was from Lessings. We will have the oral presentations next Wednesday. Trustee McKay graciously agreed to serve on the evaluation committee, as well as Board Member Debra Kolyer. We don't anticipate any major obstacles in moving forward with negotiations with Lessings on this RFP.

The RFP for the stable operation in Montauk has been advertised and proposals are due next Tuesday. We have gotten a great deal of interest and anticipate receiving seven or eight proposals. The county has been very

happy with the current operator who took over for the final year of Rusty Lever's contract. He will be one of the proposers and the evaluation committee will consist of Trustee White and Board Member Debra Kolyer. Once all of the proposals are received, the evaluation committee will review them and determine whether to hear oral presentations from all seven or eight of the proposers or narrow it down to just a few from which to choose.

We are in the process of drafting an RFP for canoe and kayak operators at various park facilities. We currently have two canoe & kayak concessionaires running at county parks. The Parks Department would like to hear suggestions from our Trustees of places where they would like to see a canoe or kayak operator. We will list our suggestions of places in our RFP and allow for outside suggestions to be sent in by anyone with good ideas.

Trustee McKay suggested trying to get a canoe or kayak operator back at Southaven. Colleen stated that we would advertise that we are looking for operators. Trustee Cardillo volunteered to serve on the evaluation committee for this RFP.

We are currently re-negotiating the license agreement with the golf professional at Timber Point. He is up for a five year contract renewal at the end of this year. The Parks Department planned it to end at the same time we would be negotiating with the restaurant concessionaire at Timber Point in case we wanted to make changes to the contracts at the same time.

Richard Martin introduced Allison McGovern who has been working in Montauk for the past two years organizing and taking inventory of the county's archeological collection. There was a Native American village in Montauk at one time and many of the artifacts were displayed at the park at the Indian museum in the bunk house. Many of the items were stored away in boxes when the museum closed and Allison has been sorting through and interpreting a large number of artifacts that are estimated to date back from 1700 to the end of the 1800s. She has been cleaning and curating the collection so they can be restored in the proper manner. At the same time, she is using the data for her PhD dissertation in archeology which focuses on Native American labor and activities in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. She is studying for her PhD at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Trustee White was very helpful and referred Allison to several local residents, including Lawrence Cooke who is a new member of the Montauk Historical Society Board of Directors and Richard Hendrickson who did extensive studying on the Native American population who lived in Montauk dating back to that time period in history. Lawrence Cooke is planning an aggressive fundraising campaign to build an addition to the property at Second House. Peter Wilson is the architect who has designed a building which will be built behind the Second House and Lawrence Cooke's collection will be housed there. Trustee White also referred Allison to Frank "Shank" Dickinson who was born on the Third House property.

Commissioner Dawson reported that members of the Montauk Observatory have been interested in building an observatory somewhere in Montauk County Park for the past several years. The new location they are now interested in is up by the GATR site. Plans are moving forward and we may be getting some new information from them in the coming weeks that will be taken to the CEQ. They may also be interested in the old generator house at the GATR site. Trustee White stated that it would be ideal because it has been there for sixty years. The county will probably enter into a license agreement or a permit with the group so that they can move onto the site.

Legislator Schneiderman has proposed moving \$50,000 from the \$500,000 account that the county has set aside for construction at Third House to use it for planning and design work. He is working on a resolution to get this done so that capital improvements can be made to Third House and we can obtain a final Certificate of Occupancy.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Borden inquired if any more work has been done at the Makamah trail near 25A in Fort Salonga. Trustee McKay stated that the parking lot at the beach is going to be re-oriented to add some new spaces and picnic tables at the end of Makamah Road, but that is a town project. The county trails are primarily used for mountain biking and dog walking.

Chairman Borden inquired about the status of our proposed budget. Board Member Pearsall reported that the legislature would get the proposed budget tomorrow. If they receive a hard copy they will have to scan it and should have it online for everyone to view by 9 pm tomorrow evening. If it is an electronic version, it will be online by 5 pm. For anyone interested, he advised visiting the legislative website.

Chairman Borden inquired if the lifeguards have finished for the season and Commissioner Dawson confirmed that they have, and that it was a successful and relatively calm season.

Trustee White reported that there is an FCC issue to be resolved regarding the Montauk communications tower. He said that the FCC made a change to the frequencies that the emergency services can use. The old frequency was wide band and the new one is narrow band making it more difficult to send a message from point to point. This has made it much more difficult to get messages to Lake Montauk inside the harbor because the other tower is at the dump which is located at a high spot just before you get into town. The signal does not bend so they need a tower with a repeater at the GATR site which is across from the lake so a signal can hit the new tower and then go into the lake. Letters were sent to the County Executive, Legislator Schneiderman, Assemblyman Thiele, and Senators LaValle and Bishop. Trustee White continued to state that the problem with the FAA is communicating to them that the tower they request is no higher than any of the fourteen previous ones that have been there over the past fifty years. We also don't see the need to light the tower when we have never been required to light the existing poles at the site. Commissioner Dawson stated that Legislator Schneiderman offered to work on the federal issues.

Chairman Borden announced that Nick Gibbons will speak on his scope of responsibilities for the Parks Department at the next Trustees meeting.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee White announced that it was the thirtieth time the trustees have met at the Third House and over the years, up until this meeting lobster and steak were always served. Unfortunately, since the kitchen is no longer functioning there, they couldn't have that this year.

Trustee Cardillo brought up the issue of trustee vacancies in the Towns of Babylon, Islip and Southold. Commissioner Dawson stated that he has sent letters and requested assistance from the Presiding Officer's office.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2012 at Indian Island Golf Course, Riverhead, New York.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**